

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants submit a proposed amendment to Figure 4A (appended hereto) for approval by the Examiner in accordance with MPEP § 608.02(v). The proposed amendment is submitted to comply with the Examiner's request to designate Figure 4A as Prior Art.

REMARKS

No claims are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-6, 13-15, 24, 25, and 27 are amended. Claims 1-28 remain in the Application. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Drawings

The Examiner indicates that Figure 4A should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. As stated above, Applicants submit herewith a proposed amendment to Figure 4A to comply with the Examiner's request. Applicants respectfully request approval of the amendment.

II. In the Specification

Applicants have amended the typographical errors identified by the Examiner in the specification. Specifically, at page 6, line 16, and page 14, line 7, Applicants replace "wire-bonded each other" with -- wire-bonded to each other --. Applicants further correct "wire-boned" at page 14, line 7 to --wire-bonded--.

At page 6, line 36, Applicants replace "the first embodiment of the preset" with -- the first embodiment of the present --. Approval of this amendment is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Objections

Claims 1, 24 and 25 are objected to for informalities. Applicants amend these claims to correct the grammatical errors identified by the Examiner. Moreover, Applicants amend 1, 3-6, 13-15, and 27 to correct grammatical and typographical errors. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

IV. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,999,480 issued to Ong et al. ("Ong"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

To anticipate a claim, the Examiner must show that a single reference teaches each of the elements of that claim. Amended Claim 24 recites a first memory bank, a second memory bank, a third memory bank, and a fourth memory bank, wherein said each memory bank has a non-rectangular shape" (emphasis added).

Applicants submit that Ong does not disclose a memory bank that has a non-rectangular shape. Rather, in Fig. 6 of Ong, each of the memory banks (including bank 12, the bank below bank 12, the bank to the right of bank 12, and the bank diagonal from bank 12) has a rectangular shape. The memory banks disclosed by Ong include left and right partial array blocks (PABs) 14L and 14R that are substantially identical or equivalent rectangular halves. None of these memory banks has a non-rectangular shape as claimed.

Amended Claim 24 includes four memory banks, each having a non-rectangular shape. This is supported by the specification (e.g., Fig. 9) showing that each of the first to the fourth banks (Bank_0 to Bank_3) has a non-rectangular shape. Particularly, in the examples shown in Figs. 10 to 11B, each memory bank has a shape selected from "┐", "┌", "└", "┘", "L" and "J".

Thus, Ong does not teach each of the elements of amended Claim 24. In regard to Claims 25 and 26, these claims depend from Claim 24 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Thus, at least for the reasons mentioned above in regard to Claim 24, Ong does not anticipate these claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of Claims 24-26 are respectfully requested.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 1-23 and 27-28 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP


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Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Amber D. Saunders Date